

HB 399

EXHIBIT 5  
DATE 3/10/09  
HB 399

Susan Dow

representing DD Children Service  
providers

We support this bill as a path  
to rate equity.

In these times of scarce resources  
it's crucial that resources  
are distributed fairly and  
cost effectively.

We urge your support



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TO: House Appropriations Committee Members  
FROM: Jani McCall, *JM* VP Government Affairs  
DATE: March 10, 2009  
RE: Support for HB 399

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Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch is in strong support of HB 399 and we ask that House Appropriations approve the necessary funding to implement this bill. This legislation is the result of recommendations from by the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) Rate Commission. This commission was established by the 2005 Legislature and its purpose is to provide ongoing review and monitoring of community based provider services, costs and reimbursement rates.

- HB 399 provides for:
  - the establishment of principles for payments to certain providers within DPPHS including children's and adult mental health, developmental disabilities, foster care and senior and long-term care services;
  - a methodology for reviewing and setting provider reimbursement rates; and
  - collection and analysis of rate-related information
- HB 399 requires:
  - The Department to conduct periodic analysis of both existing provider rates and the factors relevant to reimbursement rates (*relevant market rate means that it is based on a comparison of rates for similar services in states with similar economies*)
  - A consistent and impartial process for determining the order of how provider services and rates are reviewed;

Please note that the fiscal note for this bill is not correct and we ask that you request a revised fiscal note. It includes anticipated expenses for cost reports and monitoring for several provider types that are not included in the bill. The bill includes only community based children's and adult mental health, developmental disabilities, foster care and senior and long-term care services. Hospital services are not included.

HB 399 will allow for the development of a planned, equitable system of reviewing and monitoring provider rates as well as the ongoing evaluation of the quality of care provided. An example of the current inequity in the system is that the children's foster care rate matrix and the children's mental health rate system has not been re-based since 1994.

Please support the funding for HB 399. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the people and state of Montana.